

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

JANUARY 12, 2025 | 10:30AM

Baptism of the Lord



Spirituality | Service | Sharing

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak

We hope you sense an authentic community here! This church is *not* for people who have everything about their faith figured out. It's not for people whose lives are neat and tidy. *This is a community gathered in Christ.* Together, we are seeking a world made whole. The Holy Spirit draws us together with our doubts, struggles, *and* our celebrations. God is at work transforming us and showing us glimpses of Christ's light in the world!

Our worship service follows a traditional format. Our prayers and preaching put the Bible in conversation with practical questions to help us live faithfully in our daily lives. Our community is made up of people who bring different experiences and perspectives. Together, we trust in God's grace and love, which are free gifts to us, no matter what life brings our way. We don't need to earn that love, yet we can always rely on it.

If you are seeking to be comforted, challenged, or to grow in your faith, we would be honored to accompany you on that journey. You are welcome here just as you are.

Rev. Emma Nickel

Pastor

Children Belong Here

There is a place for families and children of all ages here! We believe children who worship with their church family stick with their faith for a lifetime. Choose what works best for your family:

- The *Prayground* in the back of the sanctuary, where children may do quiet activities, with you nearby to assist, as they absorb the worship service.
- The **Backyard Playroom** is a free program offering a safe, indoor environment for children ages five (5) and under to play under parental/guardian supervision, and is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9am to 12pm.
- Sunday School: Following the Time with Children, kids may go with Sunday school leaders to class, which ends at the conclusion of the worship service.
- Nursery: Childcare for infants and toddlers during the 10:30am service, with background-checked staff and volunteers.

Finding Your Way

Kirkman Fellowship Hall: Use either staircase in the lobby to go downstairs into the Hall. *Nursery:* Located to the right of the lobby, down the hallway across from the Sunflowers Preschool classroom. *Elevator:* Down the hall, left past the Sunflowers Preschool classroom. *Restrooms:* Women's & Men's are at the top of the short stairwells in the lobby, All Gender/Single in the narthex outside the sanctuary. *Accessible* is at the end of the hallway near the Fireside Room. *Hearing-assist devices:* Ushers near the sanctuary doors are available to assist you.

Interested in Joining?

For those interested in exploring the possibility of membership or learning more about who we are and what we do, new member gatherings take place several times a year. To get connected, contact Rev. Emma Nickel at enickel@fpcro.org



SCAN ME

Giving

Giving online is a fast and easy! Click GIVE at www.fpcro.org to make a one-time gift. Recurring gifts may set up using a debit/credit card, or a PayPal account using the QR code. Cash/checks may be placed in the offering plates by the side aisle doors or in the basket in the narthex entry. Thank you for sharing your gifts with God and the church!



GATHERING

At the ◊ you may stand in body or in spirit. Bold text is read or sung in unison.

Prelude

“Cantilena”

Josef Rheinberger
Public Domain

Welcome & Announcements

◊ Call to Worship

One: As we gather today, we remember God’s promises in the pouring of water.

All: We give thanks for baptism’s invitation –

One: an invitation to a life of faith and a closer relationship with God;

All: an invitation to live in grace;

One: an invitation to discipleship.

All: And so we worship the one whose promises are always sure.

◊ Hymn #241

“When Jesus Came to Jordan”

Text: Fred Pratt Green ©1980 Hope Publishing Co.

Call to Confession and Kyrie Eleison

One: God’s love is from everlasting to everlasting. We have nothing to fear and so we can approach God in confession. Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

All: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Prayer of Confession

All: Living God, we have entered the season in which your Light has been given to the world. Yet we are drawn to other priorities. We forget that your image lies within us and that we can reflect your light. Forgive us for failing to notice your grace at work in the world. Forgive us for responding to your grace with apathy or ignorance. Help us to remember your joy in us—your creatures—so that we may joyfully serve you.

[silence for individual prayer]

One: Through Christ we pray,

All: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

One: The love of God is always offered to us, freely and joyfully. Rejoice, dear friends, this is the good news of our Lord!

All: Thanks be to God!

◇Gloria Patri

Hymn #734

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

◇Passing of the Peace

One: We are drawn to the light of Christ. Christ is the one who brings peace for us and for the whole world. May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Time with the Children and Star Word Reflections

After the Time with the Children, kids will go to Sunday school with their teachers and will return at the conclusion of the service.



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

All: O Lord, by the power of your Spirit, lift us up into your presence to hear the promise of your word and know the joy of your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Psalm

“Psalm 51”

Sung to the Hymn-tune *Azmon*, #96 “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

“Into my secret heart send truth, let wisdom in me grow;

O wash the evil from my hands, and make me pure as snow.

A clean and upright heart, O Lord, exchange for mine of stone;

Thy Holy Spirit meld with mine, and leave me not alone”

Paraphrase of Psalm 51 ©1999 Michael Morgan, The Psalter for Christian Worship, Witherspoon Press

Scripture Reading

Luke 3:1-22

Pew Bible, NT pg. 61

One: The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

“Come to the Water”

John Foley

~Chancel Choir

“O let all who thirst, let them come to the water. And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord: without money, without price. Why should you pay the price, except for the Lord? And let all who seek, let them come to the water. And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord: without money, without strife. Why should you spend your life, Except for the Lord? And let all who toil, let them come to the water. And let all who are weary, let them come to the Lord: all who labor without rest. How can your soul find rest, except for the Lord? And let all the poor, let them come to the water. Bring the ones who are laden, bring them all to the Lord: bring the children without might. Easy the load and light: come to the Lord.”

©1978 and this arr. 2000 John Foley and new Dawn Music, Hope Publishing Co.

Sermon

“The Baptismal Life”

Rev. Emma Nickel



THANKSGIVING

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

“O Come, Every One That Thirsteth”

Felix Mendelssohn

~Chancel Quartet

“O come every one who thirsteth, O come to the waters, O come unto Him. O hear, and your souls shall live forever, O come to the waters, come unto Him!”

Public Domain

◇Doxology

Hymn #34

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

◇Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen



SENDING

◇ Hymn #244

“O Love, How Deep, How Broad”

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◇ Benediction

Postlude

“Fuga in C Major (Sonata No. 2)”

Felix Mendelssohn
Public Domain

LITURGIST

Norm Bayne

FPCRO STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Emma Nickel

Dir. of Christian Education: Joelle Jarrait

Dir. of Music Ministries/Organist: Joseph Jackson

Organ Scholar: John Etsell

Chancel Choir Dir.: Kent Wattleworth

Sunburst Singers Dir.: Audrey Frieberg

Church Admin.: Kari Peruski

Facility Manager: Alan Glasel

Admin. Assistant: Sally Gilreath

Sunday/Evening Reception: Todd Crawford

S.T.A.G.E. Youth Ministry Director: Jessica Gibbs

Backyard Playroom Coordinator: Ashleigh McKnight

Nursery Care Worker: Abby Pochron

SOLOISTS

Bryan Clinthorne, *baritone*

Brady DeVecchio, *tenor*

Olivia Donnel, *soprano*

Audrey Frieberg, *soprano*

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Our church is a Stephen Ministry church. Stephen Ministers are lay caregivers who are trained to provide high-quality confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting. Contact the pastor if you are in need.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers are given by Nancy Denne in memory of her parents, Marjorie and William, and her brother, Robert Martin.

Taking Down the Greens Today

Join us for a few minutes after worship today, to take down the Christmas greens in the sanctuary and around the church. Then enjoy coffee hour fellowship hosted by the Deacons.

Upcoming January S.T.A.G.E. Dates

Regular Meeting on **January 12**, from 4:30-6:30pm at **First Presbyterian Church Birmingham**. Service day at Crossroads on **January 26**. S.T.A.G.E. (*Somewhere To Ask God Everything*) is a collaborative youth group which strives to build lifelong relationships, impact the communities we live in, and learn about and share the love of Christ! Join our newsletter by emailing **stageyouth@gmail.com** for all the details on our meetings, added service events during the year, and summer mission work! Meetings are open to all Middle and High School Students (6th-12th grade)

SCAN TO
LEARN
MORE



Women's Fellowship Group

Women of all ages and stages are invited to participate for fellowship, friendship, and conversation. We'll meet at North End Taproom (111. S. Main St., Royal Oak) on **Monday, January 20, 2025 at 7pm**. The Taproom offers beverages, including non-alcoholic options, and food.

The Big Game Sub Sandwich Fundraiser—Buy Yours Today!

Sat, Feb 8 • 1-3pm & Sun, Feb 9 • 7:30-11:30am

We will need youth to help with our annual fundraiser! Saturday, February 8 we will be prepping the ingredients for the subs, and Sunday, February 9 we will assemble the subs bright and early. Both days we will be at FPCRO and our goal is to have all sub orders for the respective congregations ready for pick-up mid morning on February 9. Refreshments for volunteers will be provided Sunday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

Congregational Lenten Devotional—Sign up to Contribute an Entry

You are invited to contribute to our 2025 Congregational Lenten Devotional. This year, we are compiling a booklet to use for spiritual enrichment during Lent. Each day of Lent will include a short entry for reflection, written by church members and friends. To make it possible, we need you to contribute an entry (or two or three!) To write an entry, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/3pxbszap> Select a weekly topic and use the prompt to guide your reflection. Each entry only needs to be 100-250 words. Writers of all ages and abilities are encouraged to participate!

Flower Dedications

The FPCRO **2025 Flower Dedication Chart** is up and ready for your requests. Please add your name in the slot of your choice to remember a loved one, celebrate a special occasion, or honor someone with flowers this year. The chart is in the hallway across from our reception desk. You may fill out a card immediately or closer to your dedication date. Dedications are \$45. Please see Chris Klein or call 248-990-8586 if you have questions. Thank you very much.

Little Free Pantry

FPCRO's Little Free Pantry serves unhoused neighbors as well as those who may need a little extra help with groceries. Below is a suggested list of non-perishable items which may be dropped off during church office hours. For cash or check donations, please indicate the "Little Free Pantry" on the check or note. **Pull-Tab Cans:** stew (beef and chicken), fruit (cocktails, peaches, pears, etc.), vegetables (corn, green beans, peas, etc.), baked beans, soup (any variety), beefaroni/ravioli (ready-to-eat), canned tuna, chicken, or turkey. **Non-perishables:** granola bars (soft/chewy, any flavor), cereal (small individual boxes), tuna/chicken (ready-to-eat pouches), Knorr rice/pasta sides, peanut butter, snack crackers/cookies, small bottled waters, juice boxes, Easy Mac and Cheese (pouches/cups).
